

**Hobart, Jamie**

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**From:** Jen K <jenkillin@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 3:04 PM  
**To:** pstestimony  
**Subject:** In Support of HB 5408

To members of the Public Safety and Security Committee of the CT Legislature:

I am writing today, as a mother and Connecticut resident, to voice my strong support for HB 5408. Connecticut residents that possess permits to carry guns are required by law to keep their permits on their person. In order to properly perform their duties, law enforcement officers must be able to determine whether someone in possession of a gun is acting in compliance with the law. Many gun crimes may be prevented, and lives saved, including the lives of police officers, if those prohibited from owning guns know that they may be asked to produce their permit at any time.

Imagine a police officer in Bridgeport sees a man striding down the street with a gun on his hip. The man is frowning and breathing heavily. He seems very angry. As it stands, there is nothing the police officer can do, even though he suspects that the man may be up to no good. The man is not waving his gun around or making threats. The officer watches the man go into a building. Five minutes later the officer hears a gunshot. The man has shot and killed his girlfriend in front of their daughter. It turns out that he was a felon who was prohibited from owning guns. If the officer could have asked the man for his permit, he might have saved that woman's life, as well as removing an illegal gun from the street.

It would take only moments for a law-abiding permit-holder to produce a permit upon request. This will not interfere with the lives of gun owners in any significant way. Once a permit is produced, the permit-holder will be allowed to go on his way. If a permit cannot be produced and the person is arrested, that simple action of requesting to see a permit results in the removal of a potentially dangerous person from the streets, at least temporarily. Even this temporary action might be enough to save a life or prevent a crime, as in the above scenario. This is no different than asking drivers to produce their licenses during routine traffic stops. Asking for a permit does not interfere with a gun owner's right *or ability* to own or carry a gun. This is a common sense law, and honestly it is shocking that it is not already in place in Connecticut.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Killin